GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2659
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2001
IRRADIATION TECHNOLOGY
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any discussions have been held by the BARCwith Food Corporation of India officials regardingthe use of irradiation process to enhance the life of foodgrains stored in the FCI godowns;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is technically possible to irradiate bulk commodities like foodgrains;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the BARC has developed any pilot project primarly for foodgrains irradiation to extend their shelf life; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the results thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE)

(a) Yes, Sir. Discussions were held with Quality Control Manager of Food Corporation of India Ltd., in 1969.

(b) Since 1967, large scale experiments on ` Storage of Radiation Processed Wheat` were conducted. Theseexperiments proved the efficacy of radiation processing. However, as clearance for radiation processing of foods was not available at that time, commercial application of the same was not tried.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) When grain is treated in free flowing form in a radiation facility it should be immediately transferred in silos or airtight metal bins after processing to avoid cross contamination. While treating the bulk grains filled in airtight bags sealed properly, adequate care in handling must be taken during processing.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Pilot scale irradiators namely `Food Package Irradiator` and `Through Flow Grain Irradiator` were used for R&D studies on food grain irradiation. End clearances for radiation processing of food products and grains as approved by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has been obtained.